

Message Text

SECRET

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61

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-11 H-03 INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00

SPC-03 OC-06 PRS-01 RSC-01 SS-20 USIE-00 USSS-00

SY-10 FAA-00 WRD-03 SCCT-02 SSO-00 DRC-01 /133 W

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R 151423Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3162

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 1332

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ETRN, NL, LE

SUBJECT: ATTEMPTED HIJACKING OF DUTCH AIRLINER

REF: BEIRUT 3004

1. NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT REPORTS THAT LEBANESE CATERING EMPLOYEE OF KLM WAS CAUGHT HIDING PISTOLS AND GRENADES IN FOOD BOX BEING TAKEN TO AIRCRAFT, AND THAT HE IDENTIFIED THE FIVE PASSENGER ACCOMPLICES. KLM SECURITY OFFICIAL, COUTINHO, HAS GIVEN US FOLLOWING INFO:

2. KLM BEIRUT RECEIVED PRIOR WARNING OF SOME KIND OF ATTEMPT DURING THIS FLIGHT THROUGH ACTIONS OF 4 OF THE 5 PASSENGERS WHO WERE LATER ARRESTED, INCLUDING FACT THEY SOUGHT ONE-WAY, FIRST CLASS TRANSPORTATION TO NEW DELHI ON THIS FLIGHT AND HAD NO INDIAN VISAS. AS RESULT OF SUSPICION KLM SUBJECTED AIRCRAFT TO THOROUGH SECURITY CHECK BEFORE DEPARTURE FROM AMSTERDAM MARCH 14 AND ASSIGNED 3 SECURITY EMPLOYEES TO FLIGHT. THESE EMPLOYEES DETECTED LOCAL EMPLOYEE IN BEIRUT ENTERING PLANE WITH SUSPICIOUS BULK UNDER HIS CLOTHING AND FOUND THAT HE CARRIED TWO PISTOLS, TWO GRENADES AND TEN KILOS OF PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE. LEBANESE POLICE ACTED VERY

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QUICKLY AND APPREHENDED THE 5 SUSPECTED PASSENGERS AMONG THOSE

WAITING TO BOARD.

3. COUTINHO STATED THAT LEBANESE AUTHORITIES ARE "FED UP" WITH
USE OF BEIRUT FOR PLESTINIAN TERRORISM AGAINST AIRCRAFT AND
ARE VERY COOPERATIVE. HE SAID KLM MODE OF OPERATION DURING NEXT
SEVERL WEEKS WILL INCLUDE EXTRA SECURITY PERSONNEL ON BOARD FLIGHTS.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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